

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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73

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 A-01 /023 W
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R 261328Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 508

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FOR A/SY/FO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: MARINE CORPS INSPECTION

1. LT COLONEL LAYER, RMO, COMPANY "A", BASED IN
FRANKFURT, HAS JUST COMPLETED A FORMAL INSPECTION OF THE US
MARINE DETACHMENT IN ANKARA, WHICH FOLLOWS AN INFORMAL INSPECTION
OF THE POST BY MAJOR DRAUDE ON JUNE 16-18, ALSO OF THE
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY "A". COL. LAYER RAISED SEVERAL MINOR
ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE RELATIVELY EASILY
IMPLEMENTED.

2. HOWEVER, COL. LAYER ALSO ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT THE
MARINES ARE CURRENTLY BEING USED HERE FOR THREE ACTIVITIES
WHICH ARE NOT REPEAT NOT AUTHORIZED. THESE ARE AS FOLLOWS:
(A) PROVIDING SECURITY COVERAGE FOR THE INSTALLATION OCCUPIED
BY THE US ELEMENT TO CENTO: (B) MANNING A NIGHT TIME GUARD
POST WITHIN THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FROM 8 P.M. TO 7 A.M.;
AND (C) HAVING THE MARINE MANNING THE GUARD POST IN THE CHANCERY
ALSO ANSWERING THE TELEPHONE AND DISPATCHING THE DUTY VEHICLE AFTER
THE EMBASSY HAS CLOSED DOWN AND AFTER THE EMBASSY TELEPHONE
OPERATOR HAS FINISHED HER DUTIES AT 8 P.M.

3. WITH RESPECT TO (C) ABOVE, AS COL. LAYER HAS ADVISED US THAT
THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT DONE AT OTHER EMBASSIES, WE ARE ARRANGING
TO HIRE AN ALL-NIGHT TELEPHONE OPERATOR WHO WILL ALSO DISPATCH
THE DUTY CAR AS NECESSARY.

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4. WITH RESPECT TO (B) ABOVE, WHILE I HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY

APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT THIS IS AN AUTHORIZED POST, I AM, IN VIEW OF THE COLONEL'S ASSERTIONS, IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDING WATCH STANDING AT THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE.

5. WITH RESPECT TO (A) ABOVE, VISITING MARINE OFFICIALS HAVE QUESTIONED

WHETHER THE US ELEMENT CENTO IS PART OF THE OFFICIAL EMBASSY COMMUNITY. IT IS, AND THE LT. GENERAL COMMANDING IT IS A RECOGNIZED AND SENIOR MEMBER OF THE COUNTRY TEAM. BECAUSE CLASSIFIED MATERIALS CONTINUE TO BE STORED AT US ELEMENT CENTO, WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT SUSPENDED THE MARINE POST THERE. BECAUSE MARINE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THIS POST IS ALSO NOT PROPERLY AUTHORIZED, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENTAL CLARIFICATION SOONEST.

6. AS SIZE OF CURRENT MARINE COMPLEMENT IS GEARED TO HANDLING RESIDENCE AND CENTO DUTIES NOTED ABOVE, ITS NUMBERS SHOULD BE ADJUSTED IF THESE DUTIES ARE TO BE DROPPED.

7. NEW SUBJECT: WE WONDER IF DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF STILL ANOTHER PROPOSED INSPECTION IN SEPTEMBER OF THE SMALL ANKARA MARINE DETACHMENT, THIS TIME BY A TEAM COMPOSED OF A BRIGADIER GENERAL, A FULL COLONEL, A LT. COLONEL, A CAPTAIN, AND A SGT. MAJOR. THIS WILL IN EFFECT BE THE THIRD INSPECTION OF THE MARINES AT THIS EMBASSY WITHIN THREE MONTHS--AND I UNDERSTAND THERE IS STILL ANOTHER ONE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER. THIS SAME LARGE GENERAL-LED INSPECTION GROUP, WHEN IT COMPLETES ITS SEPTEMBER WORK IN ANKARA, WILL PROCEED TO ISTANBUL TO INSPECT THE 8-MEMBER MARINE DETACHMENT THERE. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN ADDITIONAL COLONEL WILL BE ADDED TO THE INSPECTION GROUP AT THAT TIME.) THIS SEEMS TO US TO BE BOTH AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER AND LEVEL OF INSPECTORS.

8. IN ANY EVENT, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE ARE DISCOURAGING ALL MILITARY VISITS TO THIS COUNTRY AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. MILITARY COMMANDERS IN EUROPE HAVE BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE IN KEEPING THEIR VISITS DOWN OR RESCHEDULING FOR LATER PERIODS. WHILE EARLIER, AND WITH CONSIDERABLE RELUCTANCE, CLEARANCE WAS GIVEN FOR SEPTEMBER MARINE VISITATION, WE HAVE, UPON FURTHER REFLECTION, INCREASING DOUBTS AS TO ITS APPROPRIATENESS. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, CONFIDENTIAL

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APPRECIATE ITS BEING DEFERRED.
MACOMBER

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